

A ROBUST FAMILY OF MICRODISPLAY PROJECTION LENSES

Field of the Invention

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The invention relates to projection lenses and more particularly to a family of lenses with good performance over a wide variety of optimization parameters.

Background of the Invention

10 In a microdisplay system, a modulated light output from an imager is projected by a projection lens system onto a screen to form a viewable image. Projection lens systems for existing microdisplay systems typically comprise eleven to thirteen lens elements. To produce a viewable image, the projection lens system must provide a relatively high performance. The number and quality of lens elements necessary to meet the performance requirements can result in high costs for the lens system. Also, existing projection lens
15 systems are typically custom designed for a specific application, causing high design costs and limiting flexibility in the lens system.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention provides a projection lens system comprising a double-gauss architecture with aspheric lens elements at the beginning and end of the lens system with a
20 system stop therebetween and an acromatic lens element pair between each aspheric lens and the system stop.

Also provided is a projection lens family comprising a plurality of lens systems, each having a double-gauss base architecture with aspheric lens elements at the beginning and end of the lens system with a system stop therebetween and an acromatic lens element pair
25 between each aspheric lens and the system stop. Each lens system is optimized to provide a different cost/performance option.

Brief Description of the Drawings

The invention will be described with reference to the drawings, in which:

Fig. 1 shows an exemplary projection lens system comprising a base architecture for a family of lens systems according to an embodiment of the present invention;

5 Fig. 2 shows a set of calculated curves for the optical transfer function for the exemplary projection lens system of Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 shows an alternative exemplary projection lens system using long lenses according to an embodiment of the present invention;

10 Fig. 4 shows a set of calculated curves for the optical transfer function for the exemplary projection lens system of Fig. 3;

Fig. 5 shows a set of calculated curves for field curvature distortion for the exemplary projection lens system of Fig. 3;

Fig. 6 shows an alternative exemplary projection lens system using the base architecture and an added asphere according to an embodiment of the present invention;

15 Fig. 7 shows a set of calculated curves for the optical transfer function for the exemplary projection lens system of Fig. 6;

Fig. 8 shows a set of calculated curves for field curvature distortion for the exemplary projection lens system of Fig. 6;

20 Fig. 9 shows an alternative exemplary projection lens system using long lenses and an added asphere according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 10 shows a set of calculated curves for the optical transfer function for the exemplary projection lens system of Fig. 9;

Fig. 11 shows a set of calculated curves for field curvature distortion for the exemplary projection lens system of Fig. 9;

Fig. 12 shows an alternative exemplary projection lens system using the base architecture and an added acromat according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 13 shows a set of calculated curves for the optical transfer function for the exemplary projection lens system of Fig. 12;

5 Fig. 14 shows a set of calculated curves for field curvature distortion for the exemplary projection lens system of Fig. 12;

Fig. 15 shows an alternative exemplary projection lens system using long lenses and an added acromat according to an embodiment of the present invention;

10 Fig. 16 shows a set of calculated curves for the optical transfer function for the exemplary projection lens system of Fig. 15;

Fig. 17 shows a set of calculated curves for field curvature distortion for the exemplary projection lens system of Fig. 15;

15 Fig. 18 shows an alternative exemplary projection lens system using an added asphere and an added acromat and with aspheric surfaces on the acromats according to an embodiment of the present invention;

Fig. 19 shows a set of calculated curves for the optical transfer function for the exemplary projection lens system of Fig. 18; and

Fig. 20 shows a set of calculated curves for field curvature distortion for the exemplary projection lens system of Fig. 18.

20 Detailed Description of the Invention

The present invention provides a projection lens system with good performance using from 6 to 9 lens elements and a family of lens systems that provide an opportunity to perform a performance/cost tradeoff for a particular application to achieve the required performance at the least cost for that application without requiring a customized design. A family of
25 projection lens systems, as shown in Figs. 1, 3, 6, 9, 12, 15, and 18, is provided according to

an exemplary embodiment of the present invention. Calculated performance data for the lens systems within the exemplary family is shown in Figs 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16, 17, 19, and 20. The exemplary family of lens systems provide a robust base architecture with various performance enhancing variations that allow for cost/performance tradeoffs to meet the requirements of a particular application, without the need for a custom design. The lens systems in the exemplary family receive an output matrix of modulated pixels of light from an imager (not shown) and project it onto a screen (not shown) to provide a viewable image. The lens system family provides a plurality of high-performance projection lens systems with from 6 to 9 lens elements, reducing cost as compared to a lens system with from 11 to 13 lens elements.

Each lens system in the illustrated lens system family has a base architecture 10 as shown in Fig. 1. The base architecture 10 comprises 6 lens elements. Two acrylic aspheric lenses (i.e., aspheres) 81, 85 (the frontmost and rearmost lenses respectively) are disposed at opposite ends of the lens system 10 each forming a single aspheric lens element. Two glass acromatic lenses (i.e., acromats) 82, 84 (made from inexpensive glass types) are disposed between the aspheres 81, 85 with a stop 83 disposed between the acromats 82, 84. Each acromat 82, 84 comprises two spherical lens elements (i.e., lens elements with a uniform spherical geometry). Both surfaces of the second aspheric lens 85 have a forward direction of curvature (i.e., a positive radius). In the first aspheric lens 81, the first surface 81a has a backward direction of curvature (i.e., a negative radius) and the second surface 81b has a forward direction of curvature. The first acromatic lens 82 has three surfaces 82a, 82b, 82c defining two lens elements 82x, 82y. The first surface 82a has a negative direction of curvature and the second and third surfaces 82b, 82c have a positive direction of curvature. The second acromatic lens 84 also has three surfaces 83a, 83b, 83c defining two lens elements 84x, 84y. Each of the surfaces 84a, 84b, 84c of the second acromatic lens 84 have a negative

direction of curvature. The acromat lens elements are made from inexpensive glass, such as SF14, SF15, BAK1, and BALF4.

Surface data for the lenses 81, 82, 84, 85 of an exemplary base architecture are provided in table 1, with the asymmetric coefficients provided in table 2. These exemplary lens surfaces were developed by the inventors using ZEMAXTM software and novel characteristics determined by the inventors. The thickness values are the distance to the previous surface (i.e., the thickness for the back surface of a lens element is the thickness of that lens element, and the thickness for the front surface of a lens is the air gap in front of that lens).

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TABLE 1 (dimensions in millimeters)

Surface	Type	Radius	Thickness	Glass	Diameter	Conic
Object	Tiltsurf	-	800		1100.002	-
85b	Evenasph	38.5088	5.001653	Acrylic	40.47387	-5.355956
85a	Evenasph	10.98371	34.25946		27.51437	-0.6193395
84c	Std	-167.0716	5.002426	SF14	29.42735	0
84b	Std	-41.46908	5.000513	BALF4	29.81779	0
84a	Std	-33.66583	32.2888		30.03875	0
83	Std	Infinity	4.524869		9.9	0
82c	Std	6286.945	5.000679	SF15	12.47376	0
82b	Std	13.6423	3.930006	BAK1	14.60009	0
82a	Std	-35.71084	14.37816		15.10232	0
81b	Evenasph	33.99418	5.519493	Acrylic	23.29553	-1.845361
81a	Evenasph	-35.49287	5		23.07195	1.13975
PBS	Std	Infinity	22	SF2	28	0

PBS	Std	Infinity	3.811		28	0
IMA	Std	Infinity			14.2852	0

TABLE 2

Coefficient on:	Surface 85b: Evenasph	Surface 85a: Evenasph	Surface 81b: Evenasph	Surface 81a: Evenasph
r^2	-0.00054791663	0.012988301	0.00079396543	-0.0038806981
r^4	-3.0838499e-006	1.6236881e-005	-9.4095275e-006	-7.3020075e-006
r^6	-5.466657e-009	-5.324113e-008	3.6388924e-008	4.0675206e-008
r^8	-4.1061329e-012	-2.1673046e-010	2.9292307e-010	5.0587954e-010
r^{10}	-2.0256015e-015	-1.0691285e-012	2.714626e-012	9.4224509e-013
r^{12}	1.5717007e-017	-7.1470969e-015	1.0054958e-014	-8.6991601e-015
r^{14}	2.0937221e-020	-9.9506912e-018	-6.1253376e-017	1.1004082e-016
r^{16}	-1.9681768e-023	1.2826798e-019	1.9231635e-018	2.2021662e-018

The projection lens system is disposed between an imager (not shown) and a viewing screen (not shown). The imager provides a matrix of light pixels of intensity modulated according to a signal provided to the imager. In a microdisplay using an LCOS imager, the output from the imager passes through a polarizing beam splitter or PBS (not shown) and into the first asphere 81 comprising a single aspheric lens element, which directs the modulated matrix of light into the first acromat 82. The first acromat 82 comprises two spherical lens elements 82x, 82y joined, for example, by an adhesive. The first acromat 82 focuses the matrix of light such that it converges and inverts at the lens system stop 83. After passing the system stop 83, the matrix of light diverges until it enters the second acromat 84. The second acromat 84 causes the matrix of light to converge and directs the matrix of light into the

second asphere 85. The second asphere 85 projects the matrix of light onto the viewing screen in a diverging pattern to distribute the pixels of light over the viewing screen.

Figure 2 shows the calculated modulus of the optical transfer function (MTF) for the base architecture 10, described above. The values are calculated using ZEMAX™ software.

5 At a spatial frequency of 36 cycles per millimeter, the MTF is greater than about .48 at the worst location, as shown in Fig. 2. The distortion, also called grid distortion, as determined for the base architecture 10 using ZEMAX™ software, is about 0.55%, meaning that at the worst location, the light from a specific pixel of an imager with a matrix 200 pixels wide will be projected onto the viewing screen at a location about a half of a pixel-width from the
10 intended or optimum location.

As indicated by the sum of the thickness values from table 1, the base architecture provides a system length of less than 1050 millimeters.

Fig. 3 shows a first optimized lens system 110 in the exemplary family of lens systems. The first optimized lens system 110 is similar to the base architecture 10, described
15 above, comprising, sequentially: a first asphere 181 with two surfaces 181a, 181b, a first acromat 182 with three surfaces 182a, 182b, 182c, a system stop 183, a second acromat 184 with three surfaces 184a, 184b, 184c, and a second asphere 185 with two surfaces 185a, 185b.

Surface data for the lenses 181, 182, 184, 185 of an exemplary first optimized lens system are provided in table 3, with the asymmetric coefficients provided in table 4. These
20 exemplary lens surfaces were developed by the inventors using ZEMAX™ software and novel characteristics determined by the inventors. The thickness values are the distance to the previous surface (i.e., the thickness for the back surface of a lens element is the thickness of that lens element, and the thickness for the front surface of a lens is the air gap in front of that lens).

As indicated by the signs of the radii in table 3, the directions of curvature for the surfaces of the first optimized lens system 110 are the same as the corresponding surfaces for the base architecture. The first optimized lens system 110 differs from the base architecture 10 in that the lens elements of the first optimized lens system 110 have a greater thickness
5 than the corresponding surfaces of the base architecture 10.

The first optimized lens system 110 differs from the base architecture 10, in that the thickness of the lens elements of the first optimized lens system 110 are not constrained for a short system, and are therefore greater than the thickness of the corresponding lens elements in the base architecture 10. The surface data for the first optimized lens system 110 is
10 optimized for the new constraints (i.e., system length). While increasing the thickness of the lens elements enhances the performance of the first optimized lens system 110, cost is increased due to the material cost associated with the thicker lens elements. Also, since the overall length of the first optimized lens system 110 is greater than the length of the base architecture 10, as indicated by the sum of the thickness values in table 3, cost will be
15 increased due to a larger tube required to accommodate the increased system length. Thus, the first optimized lens system 110 provides a performance/cost trade-off with respect to the base architecture, by providing enhanced performance for an increased cost.

TABLE 3

Surface	Type	Radius	Thickness	Glass	Diameter	Conic
Object	Tiltsurf	-	800		1100.002	-
185b	Evenasph	54.782.06	40.00075	Acrylic	85.74986	0.1130913
185a	Evenasph	11.42802	20.84229		30.85192	-0.5945571
184c	Std	-71.65233	29.22574	SF14	29.84802	0
184b	Std	-36.85354	29.23238	Balf4	28.49685	0
184a	Std	-57.87299	24.82571		23.68083	0
183	Std	Infinity	0.9972328		9.9	0
182c	Std	103.1884	13.63148	SF15	10.74866	0
182b	Std	15.17237	3.546629	Bak1	15.13164	0
182a	Std	-58.00841	12.15952		15.58684	0
181b	Evenasph	28.28869	5.805668	Acrylic	23.36139	-1.162881
181a	Evenasph	-42.64965	5		23.25989	1.734617
PBS	Std	Infinity	22	SF2	28	0
PBS	Std	Infinity	3.811		28	0
IMA	Std	Infinity			14.2852	0

TABLE 4

Coefficient on:	Surface 185b: Evenasph	Surface 185a: Evenasph	Surface 181b: Evenasph	Surface 181a: Evenasph
r^2	0.0020389207	0.0062811063	0.0018799078	-0.0042941479
r^4	2.6003985e-007	2.3788631e-005	-9.888127e-006	-5.7601154e-006
r^6	-1.9606803e-010	5.4924326e-009	3.0062322e-008	2.0584827e-008
r^8	-1.1920011e-014	4.9318997e-010	5.7871364e-011	3.9588222e-010
r^{10}	1.116435e-017	-7.198808e-013	1.3442822e-012	1.0669472e-013
r^{12}	1.1069762e-021	-6.9313273e-015	2.2052094e-015	-4.1422007e-015
r^{14}	-3.1732857e-024	4.7437457e-017	-5.7310433e-017	-6.3755255e-017
r^{16}	-2.2129836e-027	-2.3397811e-020	1.138824e-018	1.5422089e-018

Figs. 4 and 5 show performance data for the first optimized lens system 110, as calculated using ZEMAXTM software. As shown in Fig. 4, the MTF for the first optimized lens system 110 is greater than 0.6 at 36 cycles per millimeter. As shown in Fig. 5, the distortion due to field curvature is less than 0.5% resulted in a grid distortion of less than about 0.21%.

A second optimized lens system 210 is shown in Fig. 6. In the second optimized lens system 210, a first asphere 281, a first acromat 282, a system stop 283, a second acromat 284, and a second asphere 285 are sequentially disposed corresponding to lenses 81, 82, 84, 85 and system stop 83 of the base architecture 10. Additionally, a third asphere 286 is disposed between first asphere 281 and first acromat 282. The surface data for the second optimized lens system 210 is optimized for the new constraints (i.e., added asphere).

Surface data for the lenses 281, 282, 284, 285, 286 of an exemplary second optimized lens system are provided in table 5, with the asymmetric coefficients provided in table 6.

These exemplary lens surfaces were developed by the inventors using ZEMAXTM software and novel characteristics determined by the inventors. The thickness values are the distance to the previous surface (i.e., the thickness for the back surface of a lens element is the thickness of that lens element, and the thickness for the front surface of a lens is the air gap in front of that lens). As indicated by the signs of the radii in table 5, the directions of curvature for the surfaces of the second optimized lens system 210 are the same as the corresponding surfaces for the base architecture.

While the added asphere 286 enhances the performance of the second optimized lens system 210, cost is increased due to the material and processing cost associated with the added lens. Thus, the second optimized lens system 210 provides a performance/cost trade-off with respect to the base architecture and first optimized lens system 110.

TABLE 5

Surface	Type	Radius	Thickness	Glass	Diameter	Conic
Object	Tiltsurf	-	800		1100.002	-
285b	Evenasph	42.33706	5.009098	Acrylic	50.8006	-0.2496601
285a	Evenasph	11.73176	39.99988		33.09326	-0.5871293
284c	Std	-45.47577	5.009518	SF14	31.55416	0.2966581
284b	Std	-21.79507	5.003933	BALF4	32.17351	-1.136171
284a	Std	-35.98523	40.00842		33.16309	1.072578
283	Std	Infinity	0.6661559		9.9	0
282c	Std	-78.48861	11.66798	SF15	10.38941	0.3613896
282b	Std	21.28694	3.422033	Bak1	15.55666	-0.8286225
282a	Std	-34.04379	0.4893632		16.08972	2.828436
286b	Evenasph	30.89964	2.028189	Acrylic	17.24871	-12.41025
286a	Evenasph	66.73687	15.89613		17.51868	-83.78206
281b	Evenasph	27.9639	5.234023	Acrylic	23.35015	-0.01637275
281a	Evenasph	-57.30318	5		23.13918	-13.82488
14	Standard	Infinity	22	SF2	28	0
15	Standard	Infinity	3.811		28	0
IMA	Std	Infinity			14.2852	0

TABLE 6

Co-efficient on:	Surface 285b: Evenasph	Surface 285a: Evenasph	Surface 286b: Evenasph
r^2	0.0027100894	0.0019914503	0.00043090224
r^4	-5.1112521e-007	8.3007272e-006	-2.8023224e-007
r^6	-2.5607057e-010	1.8279143e-009	4.1510071e-008
r^8	-1.0925963e-013	6.2142562e-011	-1.1103848e-010
r^{10}	-6.2408044e-017	-3.1627387e-014	-6.8364266e-012
r^{12}	7.004429e-021	-2.9261793e-016	-6.6230528e-014
r^{14}	1.5783037e-022	6.22289888e-019	-6.5560265e-016
r^{16}	4.4943073e-025	7.142994e-021	-2.1516978e-018

TABLE 6 (continued)

Co-efficient on:	Surface 286a: Evenasph	Surface 281b: Evenasph	Surface 281a: Evenasph
r^2	-0.00045906677	0.00037744287	-0.0015616809
r^4	-1.3342011e-006	1.3960712e-007	-1.0286283e-006
r^6	-4.2077288e-008	6.5386877e-009	3.784572e-009
r^8	2.838692e-011	1.1070467e-011	4.7923626e-011
r^{10}	4.1598305e-012	1.4603271e-013	2.4550356e-013
r^{12}	6.9339179e-015	2.8832649e-015	2.113483e-016
r^{14}	-7.8305764e-016	2.3424706e-017	3.0507855e-018
r^{16}	-1.7844867e-017	1.3935341e-020	2.4791819e

5 Figs. 7 and 8 show performance data for the second optimized lens system 210, as calculated using ZEMAXTM software. As shown in Fig. 7, the MTF for the first optimized lens system 110 is greater than about 0.5 at 36 cycles per millimeter. As shown in Fig. 8, the

distortion due to field curvature is less than 0.5% resulted in a grid distortion of less than about 0.37%.

A third optimized lens system 310 is shown in Fig. 9. In the third optimized lens system 310, a first asphere 381, a third asphere 386, a first acromat 382, a system stop 383, a second acromat 384, and a second asphere 385 are sequentially disposed corresponding to lenses 281, 286, 282, 284, 285 and system stop 283 of the second optimized lens system 210. The third optimized lens system 310 differs from the second optimized lens system 210, in that the thickness of the lens elements of the third optimized lens system 310 are not constrained for a short system, and are therefore greater than the thickness of the corresponding lens elements in the second optimized lens system 210. The surface data for the third optimized lens system 310 is optimized for the new constraints (i.e., system length). While increasing the thickness of the lens elements enhances the performance of the third optimized lens system 310, cost is increased due to the material cost associated with the thicker lens elements. The surface data for the third optimized lens system 310 is optimized for the new constraints (i.e., thickness constraints).

Surface data for the lenses 381, 382, 384, 385, 386 of an exemplary third optimized lens system are provided in table 7, with the asymmetric coefficients provided in table 8. These exemplary lens surfaces were developed by the inventors using ZEMAXTM software and novel characteristics determined by the inventors. The thickness values are the distance to the previous surface (i.e., the thickness for the back surface of a lens element is the thickness of that lens element, and the thickness for the front surface of a lens is the air gap in front of that lens). As indicated by the signs of the radii in table 7, the directions of curvature for the surfaces of the third optimized lens system 310 are the same as the corresponding surfaces for the second optimized lens system 210.

TABLE 7

Surface	Type	Radius	Thickness	Glass	Diameter	Conic
Object	Tilt surf	-	800		1100.002	-
385b	Evenasph	53.74491	40.0002	Acrylic	89.44526	-0.09230615
385a	Evenasph	11.69796	20.709.59		33.24061	-0.5627834
384c	Standard	-45.38095	30.45469	SF14	32.09242	2.34988
384b	Standard	-30.03267	40.00116	BALF4	34.82094	-2.042391
384a	Standard	-41.05816	38.09771		34.12486	-0.8457163
383	Standard	Infinity	0.6779337		9.9	0
382c	Standard	-76.10447	0.9981489	SF15	10.36971	18.63513
382b	Standard	19.71153	12.28832	Bak1	11.06497	-3.325162
382a	Standard	-35.71194	6.340118		15.93804	1.121737
386b	Evenasph	39.66016	1.662293	Acrylic	19.64652	-11.01615
386a	Evenasph	100.0334	11.05696		19.74318	-97.89724
381b	Evenasph	25.85814	4.947632	Acrylic	23.83121	-0.03805032
381a	Evenasph	-76.29306	5		23.61417	-4.170386
PBS	Standard	Infinity	22	SF2	28	0
PBS	Standard	Infinity	3.811		28	0
IMA	Standard	Infinity			14.2852	0

TABLE 8

Co-efficient on:	Surface 385b: Evenasph	Surface 385a: Evenasph	Surface 386b: Evenasph
r^2	0.00013745476	-4.5742211e-005	-9.7142182e-006
r^4	-1.8947137e-007	-4.5816404e-006	-2.0375572e-007
r^6	1.5316435e-011	-1.3632584e-008	4.1362962e-009
r^8	2.5011478e-014	-1.7748662e-011	3.5786839e-011
r^{10}	1.4695096e-017	1.3783896e-014	-9.597553e-013
r^{12}	5.6077275e-021	3.0462773e-017	-1.3442987e-014
r^{14}	7.3400845e-025	4.4486303e-019	7.7620488e-017
r^{16}	-1.0674011e-027	1.9433666e-021	1.0104074e-017

TABLE 8 (continued)

Co-efficient on:	Surface 386a: Evenasph	Surface 381b: Evenasph	Surface 381a: Evenasph
r^2	-1.2478864e-005	0.00019301254	-0.00070944959
r^4	4.9548789e-007	5.0169408e-007	-2.6371676e-006
r^6	-9.2066884e-009	-8.5198025e-009	1.6488689e-008
r^8	-1.4196881e-010	4.8404039e-011	4.3322983e-011
r^{10}	9.7281749e-013	6.6358371e-013	-2.4425644e-014
r^{12}	3.2768312e-014	3.3460999e-015	3.0418029e-016
r^{14}	4.2596697e-016	5.2938933e-018	1.4238737e-017
r^{16}	2.1440729e-018	-1.883677e-020	1.3828764e-019

Figs. 10 and 11 show performance data for the third optimized lens system 310, as calculated using ZEMAXTM software. As shown in Fig. 10, the MTF for the third optimized lens system 310 is greater than about 0.7 at 36 cycles per millimeter. As shown in Fig. 11, the distortion due to field curvature is less than about 0.6% resulted in a grid distortion of less than about 0.53%.

A fourth optimized lens system 410 is shown in Fig. 12. In the fourth optimized lens system 410, a first asphere 481, a first acromat 482, a system stop 483, a second acromat 484, and a second asphere 485 are sequentially disposed corresponding to lenses 81, 82, 84, 85 and system stop 83 of the base architecture 10. Additionally, a third acromat 486 is disposed between first asphere 481 and first acromat 482. The surface data for the fourth optimized lens system 410 is optimized for the new constraints (i.e., added acromat).

Surface data for the lenses 481, 482, 484, 485, 486 of an exemplary fourth optimized lens system are provided in table 9, with the asymmetric coefficients provided in table 10. These exemplary lens surfaces were developed by the inventors using ZEMAXTM software and novel characteristics determined by the inventors. The thickness values are the distance to the previous surface (i.e., the thickness for the back surface of a lens element is the thickness of that lens element, and the thickness for the front surface of a lens is the air gap in front of that lens). As indicated by the signs of the radii in table 9, the directions of curvature for the surfaces of the fourth optimized lens system 410 are the same as the corresponding surfaces for the base architecture.

While the added acromat 486 enhances the performance of the fourth optimized lens system 410, cost is increased due to the material and processing cost associated with the added lens. Thus, the fourth optimized lens system 410 provides a performance/cost trade-off with respect to the base architecture and other optimized lens systems.

TABLE 9

Surface	Type	Radius	Thickness	Glass	Diameter	Conic
Object	Tiltsurf	-	800		1100.002	-
485b	Evenasph	50.52135	5.003641	Acrylic	40.96973	-4.86756
485a	Evenasph	11.12721	34.20341		28.15665	-0.6342569
484c	Standard	-130.4465	5.001792	SF14	27.79878	0
484b	Standard	-34.10937	5.003132	Balf4	28.05397	0
484a	Standard	-36.92015	29.99528		27.99226	0
483	Standard	Infinity	1.992378		9.9	0
482c	Standard	-72.30641	13.21982	SF15	11.04937	0
482b	Standard	20.41885	3.87008	Bak1	16.69782	0
482a	Standard	-34.7897	1.840644		17.24212	0
486c	Standard	37.24344	0.9965786	Balf4	19.1847	0
486b	Standard	21.15049	2.993515	Sk5	19.36948	0
486a	Standard	133.8268	12.025		19.45986	0
481b	Evenasph	37.33862	4.130968	Acrylic	22.52699	-2.084634
481a	Evenasph	-46.17849	5		22.31879	1.494469
PBS	Standard	Infinity	22	SF2	28	0
PBS	Standard	Infinity	3.811		28	0
IMA	Standard	Infinity			14.2852	0

TABLE 10

Coefficient on:	Surface 485b: Evenasph	Surface 485a: Evenasph	Surface 481b: Evenasph	Surface 481a: Evenasph
r^2	-0.0006802717	0.0063602141	-0.00035947982	-0.0015029175
r^4	-2.2821441e-006	8.9985456e-006	-8.6992168e-006	-5.9041406e-006
r^6	-2.7493838e-009	-3.4769735e-008	1.9828167e-008	4.5020148e-008
r^8	-1.6711363e-012	-1.2967929e-010	4.1732414e-010	3.8122183e-010
r^{10}	1.295024e-015	-4.9536866e-013	3.0507042e-012	1.9946915e-012
r^{12}	6.1830123e-018	-1.2709455e-015	1.2132215e-014	1.4047941e-014
r^{14}	5.1712412e-021	-2.7673541e-018	1.0531052e-017	1.3054332e-016
r^{16}	-3.9274165e-023	-1.6373353e-020	8.5057059e-019	3.5823289e-019

Figs. 13 and 14 show performance data for the fourth optimized lens system 410, as calculated using ZEMAXTM software. As shown in Fig. 13, the MTF for the fourth optimized lens system 410 is greater than about 0.45 at 36 cycles per millimeter. As shown in Fig. 14, the distortion due to field curvature is less than about 0.3% resulted in a grid distortion of less than about 0.11%.

A fifth optimized lens system 510 is shown in Fig. 15. In the fifth optimized lens system 510, a first asphere 581, a third acromat 586, a first acromat 582, a system stop 583, a second acromat 584, and a second asphere 585 are sequentially disposed corresponding to lenses 481, 486, 482, 484, 485 and system stop 483 of the fourth optimized lens system 410. The fifth optimized lens system 510 differs from the fourth optimized lens system 410, in that the thickness of the lens elements of the fifth optimized lens system 510 are not constrained for a short system, and are therefore greater than the thickness of the corresponding lens

elements in the fourth optimized lens system 410. The surface data for the fifth optimized lens system 510 is optimized for the new constraints.

Surface data for the lenses 581, 582, 584, 585, 586 of an exemplary fifth optimized lens system are provided in table 11, with the asymmetric coefficients provided in table 12.

5 These exemplary lens surfaces were developed by the inventors using ZEMAXTM software and novel characteristics determined by the inventors. The thickness values are the distance to the previous surface (i.e., the thickness for the back surface of a lens element is the thickness of that lens element, and the thickness for the front surface of a lens is the air gap in front of that lens). As indicated by the signs of the radii in table 11, the directions of
10 curvature for the surfaces of the fifth optimized lens system 510 are the same as the corresponding surfaces for the base architecture.

While the added acromat 586 and longer lenses enhance the performance of the fifth optimized lens system 510, cost is increased due to the material and processing cost associated with the added and lengthened lens. Thus, the fifth optimized lens system 510 provides a
15 performance/cost trade-off with respect to the base architecture and other optimized lens systems.

TABLE 11

Surface	Type	Radius	Thickness	Glass	Diameter	Conic
Object	Tiltsurf	-	800		1100.002	-
585b	Evenasph	52.46843	36.57252	Acrylic	83.0954	-0.07632012
585a	Evenasph	11.48722	19.69203		31.91051	-0.5605351
584c	Standard	-44.18267	28.66346	SF14	29.69464	3.131137
584b	Standard	-23.99357	38.91836	Balf4	30.97805	-1.411727
584a	Standard	-41.35651	26.94158		27.01915	-1.100738
583	Standard	Infinity	0.7921657		9.9	0
582c	Standard	-71.63282	0.9983615	SF15	10.41914	26.86226
582b	Standard	17.34479	13.27932	Bak1	11.15969	-3.885082
582a	Standard	-35.74189	5.444396		16.50451	2.348688
586c	Standard	37.74798	1.744352	Balf4	19.80114	-10.18096
586b	Standard	50.87134	0.9907064	SK5	19.91557	-377.24
586a	Standard	88.68739	11.36788		20.02958	-107.9219
581b	Evenasph	24.81805	4.714736	Acrylic	23.7275	-0.07298942
581a	Evenasph	-99.91444	5		23.57781	-25.18281
PBS	Standard	Infinity	22	SF2	28	0
PBS	Standard	Infinity	3.811		28	0
IMA	Standard	Infinity			14.2852	0

TABLE 12

Coefficient on:	Surface 585b: Evenasph	Surface 585a: Evenasph	Surface 581b: Evenasph	Surface 581a: Evenasph
r^2	0.00019757201	-0.00013318065	0.00017331201	-0.00033683048
r^4	-2.854617e-007	-5.41484e-006	-2.9489628e-007	-4.0915462e-007
r^6	3.7241704e-012	-3.0833359e-008	4.8781627e-009	1.5949421e-008
r^8	2.1486926e-014	-4.1643355e-001	1.0063569e-010	2.7558306e-011
r^{10}	1.366143e-017	-3.2145382e-014	4.0524009e-013	-1.9916595e-013
r^{12}	7.0829051e-021	-5.7362975e-017	-2.7724227e-015	-1.6865348e-015
r^{14}	3.595454e-024	-3.1434602e-019	-5.0138802e-017	-2.3480087e-017
r^{16}	1.4309008e-027	-1.9434248e-021	-3.7121969e-019	-4.9279117e-019

Figs. 16 and 17 show performance data for the fifth optimized lens system 510, as calculated using ZEMAXTM software. As shown in Fig. 16, the MTF for the fifth optimized lens system 510 is greater than about 0.55 at 36 cycles per millimeter. As shown in Fig. 17, the distortion due to field curvature is less than about 0.4% resulted in a grid distortion of less than about 0.16%.

A sixth optimized lens system 610 is shown in Fig. 18. In the sixth optimized lens system 610, a first asphere 681, a first acromat 682, a system stop 683, a second acromat 684, and a second asphere 685 are sequentially disposed corresponding to lenses 81, 82, 84, 85 and system stop 83 of the base architecture 10. Additionally, a third acromat 686 is disposed between first asphere 681 and first acromat 682 and a third asphere 687 is disposed between second acromat 684 and second asphere 685. Also the surfaces of the acromats 683, 684, 686 are not constrained to a spherical geometry, but are allowed to be optimized with an aspheric

geometry. The surface data for the sixth optimized lens system 610 is optimized for the new constraints (i.e., added acromat).

Surface data for the lenses 681, 682, 684, 685, 486, 687 of an exemplary sixth optimized lens system are provided in table 13, with the asymmetric coefficients provided in
5 table 14. These exemplary lens surfaces were developed by the inventors using ZEMAXTM software and novel characteristics determined by the inventors. The thickness values are the distance to the previous surface (i.e., the thickness for the back surface of a lens element is the thickness of that lens element, and the thickness for the front surface of a lens is the air gap in front of that lens). As indicated by the signs of the radii in table 13, the directions of
10 curvature for the surfaces of the fourth optimized lens system 410 are the same as the corresponding surfaces for the base architecture.

While the added acromat 686 and added sphere 687 and aspheric surfaces on the acromats 682, 684, 686 enhance the performance of the sixth optimized lens system 610, cost is increased due to the material and processing cost associated with the added lenses and
15 complex geometry. Thus, the sixth optimized lens system 610 provides a performance/cost trade-off with respect to the base architecture and other optimized lens systems.

geometry. The surface data for the sixth optimized lens system 610 is optimized for the new constraints (i.e., added acromat).

Surface data for the lenses 681, 682, 684, 685, 486, 687 of an exemplary sixth optimized lens system are provided in table 13, with the asymmetric coefficients provided in
5 table 14. These exemplary lens surfaces were developed by the inventors using ZEMAX™ software and novel characteristics determined by the inventors. The thickness values are the distance to the previous surface (i.e., the thickness for the back surface of a lens element is the thickness of that lens element, and the thickness for the front surface of a lens is the air gap in front of that lens). As indicated by the signs of the radii in table 13, the directions of
10 curvature for the surfaces of the fourth optimized lens system 410 are the same as the corresponding surfaces for the base architecture.

While the added acromat 686 and added sphere 687 and aspheric surfaces on the acromats 682, 684, 686 enhance the performance of the sixth optimized lens system 610, cost is increased due to the material and processing cost associated with the added lenses and
15 complex geometry. Thus, the sixth optimized lens system 610 provides a performance/cost trade-off with respect to the base architecture and other optimized lens systems.

TABLE 13

Surface	Type	Radius	Thickness	Glass	Diameter	Conic
Object	Tiltsurf	-	800		1100.002	-
685b	Evenasph	49.87182	32.75977	SK4	76.07578	-0.02849491
685a	Evenasph	11.67315	17.28823		30.17249	-0.564595
687b	Evenasph	-40.31007	27.84111	SF56 A	27.79537	3.353251
687a	Evenasph	-25.10491	27.80613	Bal4	30.21244	-1.443872
684c	Evenasph	-42.25773	4.810219		28.91246	-0.1407201
684b	Evenasph	2355.193	4.978408	Bafn 10	24.83306	-31204.17
684a	Evanasph	-23004.79	22.87709		23.34838	-180916.1
683	Standard	Infinity	2.690734		9.9	0
682c	Evenasph	-72.34824	1.044008	SF1 5	11.44603	36.57998
682b	Evenasph	16.70623	8.229727	Bak 1	12.34496	-3.589178
682a	Evenasph	-35.63195	1.226665		15.48337	4.1348
686c	Evenasph	37.90074	1.893348	KZFSN2	16.88955	-11.46645
686b	Evenasph	104.6051	1.031464	SK5	17.05181	-482.2851
686a	Evenasph	88.96748	15.5136		17.26505	-106.0739
681b	Evenasph	25.37949	4.27419	SSKN8	23.44068	-0.02902742
681a	Evenasph	-125.0166	5		23.27411	-106.8518
PBS	Standard	Infinity	22	SF2	28	0
PBS	Standard	Infinity	3.811		28	0
IMA	Standard	Infinity			14.2852	0

TABLE 14

Co-efficient on:	Surface 685b: Evenasph	Surface 685a: Evenasph	Surface 687b: Evenasph	Surface 687a: Evenasph	Surface 684c: Evenasph
r^2	-0.00031915088	-0.0019417785	0.00010110516	9.67702e-005	-8.4635127e-006
r^4	-1.2508272e-007	-3.1862992e-006	1.0803524e-007	-6.4869382e-007	-6.9999911e-008
r^6	5.0178624e-011	-7.2456201e-009	2.436738e-010	1.0532888e-009	2.1286803e-010
r^8	2.3932501e-014	-7.1751929e-011	-3.652601e-012	4.932869e-012	-1.873703e-012
r^{10}	1.7004439e-018	2.6250229e-013	-1.4870201e-014	5.2534478e-014	-7.9776443e-015
r^{12}	4.3939537e-021	-2.5387742e-016	-1.8066141e-016	3.9891434e-017	-8.4404691e-017
r^{14}	9.1471997e-024	5.0293592e-019	4.0259878e-020	-5.2313982e-020	-6.3421687e-019
r^{16}	8.0596278e-027	-1.4977939e-021	-1.2192114e-022	3.7723499e-022	5.1995304e-022

Table 14 (continued)

Co-efficient on:	Surface 684b: Evenasph	Surface 684a: Evenasph	Surface 682c: Evenasph	Surface 682b: Evenasph	Surface 682a: Evenasph
r^2	6.9143051e-005	-8.6685086e-005	6.2678369e-006	-8.9469132e-005	7.2965802e-006
r^4	-5.876305e-008	-2.2405419e-007	-7.7071353e-007	4.0176046e-006	-3.5222977e-007
r^6	1.8117458e-009	-2.7813291e-009	2.1425583e-009	7.8147839e-008	-2.0967656e-008
r^8	-1.2807627e-012	-8.5373119e-012	2.089153e-010	3.54669e-009	-2.2824791e-010
r^{10}	-1.3992345e-013	1.7062768e-014	1.3878922e-011	1.0684318e-010	-8.0603132e-013
r^{12}	-8.2318992e-016	5.2914049e-016	4.2932736e-013	1.9016302e-012	5.4326353e-015
r^{14}	-7.5665237e-018	-9.4705217e-018	8.3869892e-015	-1.7444341e-014	-3.6956311e-016
r^{16}	-1.1519362e-020	-1.9767094e-019	-8.6467765e-016	-2.6814459e-015	-1.8250833e-017

Table 14 (continued)

Co-efficient on:	Surface 686c: Evenasph	Surface 686b: Evenasph	Surface 686a: Evenasph	Surface 681b: Evenasph	Surface 681a: Evenasph
r^2	-8.3748084e-006	0.00048534982	4.4252302e-006	-0.00021415125	-0.0001583804
r^4	2.8500309e-007	2.9789635e-006	-3.3888479e-008	4.2706663e-007	1.357591e-006
r^6	1.1861727e-008	3.6887118e-009	-5.290479e-009	-5.9029867e-009	1.2917107e-008
r^8	1.0160175e-010	-1.9526486e-009	-2.194889e-011	3.5529916e-012	-1.3824995e-011
r^{10}	6.7976404e-013	-4.2079675e-011	3.1146539e-013	2.8855109e-014	-4.2297077e-013
r^{12}	1.2292238e-014	-6.4038601e-013	6.1559528e-015	-9.3445599e-016	-4.1352109e-015
r^{14}	2.0811845e-016	-5.4301539e-015	8.6245664e-017	-2.0086384e-017	-2.4456213e-017
r^{16}	4.4764823e-018	-3.3015284e-017	2.0785149e-018	-2.5158437e-019	-6.6044664e-020

Figs. 19 and 20 show performance data for the sixth optimized lens system 610, as calculated using ZEMAXTM software. As shown in Fig. 19, the MTF for the sixth optimized lens system 610 is greater than about 0.65 at 36 cycles per millimeter. As shown in Fig. 20, the distortion due to field curvature is less than about 0.35% resulted in a grid distortion of less than about 0.30%.

The exemplary family of projection lens systems described above provides a plurality of lens systems, each having a double-gauss base architecture with aspheric lens elements at the beginning and end of the lens system with a system stop therebetween and an acromatic lens element pair between each aspheric lens and the system stop. Each lens system is optimized to provide a different cost/performance option. Thus, a member of the family of lens systems can be selected to achieve the required performance without incurring the cost of a lens system designed for greater performance and without custom designing a lens system for a particular application. Each exemplary lens system according to the present invention also provides good performance with fewer lens elements than existing projection lens systems, due to the durability of the double gauss base architecture.

The curvature direction of each element does not change throughout the family as the lens systems are optimized with additional elements and/or longer lens lengths. The lens systems provide from a 0.48 MTF (worst location) and 0.55% distortion (short 6 element) to a 0.69 MTF (worst location) and 0.30% distortion (9 element) with a variety of performance choices in between.

The foregoing illustrates some of the possibilities for practicing the invention. Many other embodiments are possible within the scope and spirit of the invention. It is, therefore, intended that the foregoing description be regarded as illustrative rather than limiting, and that the scope of the invention is given by the appended claims together with their full range of equivalents. For example, the foregoing descriptions and accompanying Figs. show the behavior of the lenses in a single imager LCOS system with a 22 mm thick SF2 PBS between the LCOS imager and the first lens element. The family is adaptable to different dimension LCOS systems, and to DLP™ systems with a TIR prism instead of a PBS.